

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KUALA 01246 100919Z

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CU-02 USIA-06 /019 W

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R 100838Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9213

C O N F I D E N T I A L KUALA LUMPUR 1246

FOR EA/IMS INGRAHAM FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: N/A (DECON ON RECEIPT)

TAGS: SCUL, U.S., MY

SUBJ: MARA INSTITUTE-OHIO UNIVERSITY COOPERATION

1. I HAVE LEARNED FROM AN AMERICAN PROFESSOR TEACHING AT THE MARA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY THAT A PROGRAM TO ESTABLISH A JOINT MASTERS DEGREE ARRANGEMENT BETWEEN OHIO UNIVERSITY AND MIT IS BEING HELD UP AT OHIO APPARENTLY BECAUSE OF DOUBTS ABOUT CONDITIONS IN MALAYSIA. RELUCTANCE AT OU STEMS FROM IMPRESSION OF GENERAL POLITICAL INSTABILITY IN MALAYSIA, DOUBTS ABOUT EDUCATIONAL POLICY UNDER LEADERSHIP OF PRESENT MINISTER, AND MORE SPECIFICALLY, FEELING THAT MIT IS BEING DOWN-GRADED BECAUSE OF MOVE OF ITS DIRECTOR DATUK ARSHAD AYUB TO VICE DIRECTOR BANK NEGARA.

2. JOINT MIT-OU PROGRAM WOULD PROVIDE FOR AWARDING OHIO MASTER'S DEGREES IN ECONOMIC EDUCATION ON MIT CAMPUS, AND ESTABLISHING ECONOMIC EDUCATION CENTERS IN VARIOUS PARTS OF COUNTRY FOR TRAINING SECONDARY SCHOOL TEACHERS. PROGRAM, WHICH HAS BEEN COMPLETELY STAFFED OUT AT MIT AND OU, AND READY FOR SIGNATURE BY DEAN OF GRADUATE STUDIES, OU, IS SOUND AND DESIRABLE FROM MALAYSIAN POINT OF VIEW AND WOULD MAKE SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTION TO U.S.-MALAYSIAN RELATIONS.

3. WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR TELEPHONING DR. ROMAN F. WARMKE, CHAIRMAN, ECONOMIC EDUCATION DEPARTMENT, COPLAND HALL, OU, ATHENS, OHIO, TELEPHONE (614) 594-5546, OR HOME (614) 448-3591, TO DETERMINE IF THERE ARE INDEED POLITICAL FACTORS AFFECTING CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 KUALA 01246 100919Z

DECISION. IF SO, I THINK WE CAN REASSURE HIM ON A POLITICAL

STABILITY, B) GOM COMMITMENT TO ITS EDUCATION SYSTEM WHICH IS RECEIVING HIGH PRIORITY AND LARGE SHARE OF GOVERNMENT BUDGET, AND C) CONTINUING EMPHASIS ON MIT AS PRIME INSTRUMENT FOR UPGRADING PROFESSIONAL AND VOCATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS OF MALAYS. IN RECENT VISIT TO MIT CAMPUS I WAS TOLD BY ARSHAD THAT HIS IMPENDING MOVE RESULTED FROM DESIRE FOR LESS HIGH-PRESSURE JOB AFTER TEN YEARS OF INTENSELY SUCCESSFUL EFFORT IN DEVELOPING MIT, AND I SEE NO INDICATION OF CHANGE IN GOVERNMENT POLICY REGARDING IMPORTANCE OF THIS EDUCATIONAL FACILITY.

DECON ON RECEIPT.
UNDERHILL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CULTURAL EXCHANGES, STUDENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 MAR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975KUALA01246
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: DG ALTERED
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750083-0086
From: KUALA LUMPUR
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750367/aaaacifj.tel
Line Count: 73
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <03 JUN 2003 by ElyME>; APPROVED <04 JUN 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MARA INSTITUTE-OHIO UNIVERSITY COOPERATION
TAGS: SCUL, US, MY
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006